Using SAP BusinessObjects Analysis, Edition for Microsoft Office, for Excel-based OLAP Reporting against SAP HANA, ERP and BW

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Learning Points

- SAP BusinessObjects Analysis for Office is the premium offering for BEx Analyzer
- Comparing BEx Analyzer with SAP BusinessObjects Analysis for Office
- How transient providers provide a way for BusinessObjects Analysis Office to be used directly against SAP ERP for reporting.
SAP BusinessObjects Analysis
The Premium Alternative to BEx

**Analytical Applications**
- Analysis, Edition for Application Design
  - Premium Alternative to BEx Web App Designer
  - Design studio for power users to create purpose-built OLAP analysis & planning apps
  - Customer- and SAP-delivered content
  - Mobile support
  - HANA support

**AdHoc OLAP**
- Analysis, Edition for OLAP
  - Dedicated Ad-Hoc OLAP client for business users to analyze OLAP data and share it with others
  - Enabled for 3rd party OLAP
  - Seamless interoperability between designer and ad-hoc client
  - HANA support

**Analysis, Edition for Microsoft Office**
- IT / Developers, Data Analysts, Business Users
- Excel-based OLAP analysis
- Excel-based BI applications
- Live PowerPoint presentations
- HANA support
SAP Product Road Map for Analysis, edition for MS Office

Key themes, capabilities, and planned innovations

- Highly interactive multidimensional analysis
- Best-in-class usability
- Best integration into SAP sources (SAP NetWeaver BW, SAP HANA)
- MS PowerPoint Publishing
- Excel-based application design via powerful API
- Analysis Excel write-back enabled on BW-IP (integrated planning)
- Platform services: variants, jump-to targets
- BW storage of workbooks
- Conversion of (simple) BEx Workbooks
- BW Workspaces
- Additional Support of SAP HANA Appliance (hierarchies, prompts)
- Scheduling and publication
- “Dynamic Grid”, i.e. enhanced formatting options in analysis modus
- Custom local hierarchies
- Seamlessly convert Analysis Office workbooks to web- and mobile apps (requires Analysis, edition for application design)

Today

Planned Innovations
Planned RTC: Q3 2012

Future Direction

This is the current state of planning and may be changed by SAP at any time.
News in Release 1.2

- Planning Enhancements
- Cell Locking
- Enhanced HANA support
  - Language-dependent texts
  - OLAP connection in CMC (as of BI platform 4.0 FP3)
- Application Development
  - APIs for controlling Analysis Office without ribbon
- Usability
  - Improved prompting
- Continuous Improvement
  - Variable unmerge
  - Copy & Paste

GA January 2012
Planned Key Features in Release 1.3

- **BW Platform Features**
- **Report-Report Interface (query, URL)**
- **Variants**
- **Storing workbooks/ppts in BW repository**
- **Innovation**
  - BW Workspaces: combining local Excel data with corporate data
- **HANA Support**
  - Hierarchies, Variables, Password Change
- **Migration**
  - Converting BEx workbooks

Ramp-up planned for July 2012
Analysis, Edition for Application Design
Designed for BW, BW on HANA & Native HANA Scenarios

- Universes (SQL)
- SBO Analysis Editions: (MS Office, OLAP, Application Design)

**BW application**

- SQL via DF
- MDX
- BICS

**BW managed schema**

- SAP Extractors
- Data Services

**any schema**

- Replication Services
- Data Services
COMPARISON WITH BEX ANALYZER
BEx Analyzer

Exceptions
Only supported against BEx Query

Analysis Office

Conditional Formatting

Benefits:
• On the fly
• AND-OR scenarios
Exceptions

Only supported against BEx Query

Filter by Measure

Benefit:
Develop on the fly
**PowerPoint**
- Cut and paste from Excel to PowerPoint

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**Benefit:**
- Live Analysis inside PowerPoint
**Report to Report Interface**

**Benefits:**

- Drill down from InfoProvider to details in DSO
- Drill down from a report to an ECC transaction

Real Experience. Real Advantage.
BEx Analyzer

Variants

Benefits:
• Able to save commonly used selection criteria

Analysis Office

Coming...

• Today using BEx queries for often-saved selection criteria
BEx Analyzer

Saving Workbooks to BW

Benefits:
- Becomes centrally stored
- Is a part of the BW Metadata repository

Analysis Office

Save to BI Platform
Training is likely required

Con:
• Training is not free
• Expert users

Free training at sap.com/learnbi

Benefit:
• Training is free
• Expand use beyond expert users
Demo of BEx working side by side with Analysis
Demo of Analysis Office Against SAP Hana
TRANSIENT PROVIDERS
**Transient Provider allows you**
- …to connect via a BEx Query in the local BI client of your SAP ERP system to a classic InfoSet and in that way provide real-time ERP data to your end-users
- … in that way expose operational data to SAP BusinessObjects tools

**Works like an operational InfoProvider or remote cube**
Steps to Create Analysis Workbook Against ECC InfoSet

1. Create InfoSet
2. Set Property to Release - SQBWPROP
3. Create BEx Query against InfoSet
4. Select BEx Query as a data source in Analysis
DEMO – TRANSIENT PROVIDER
ECC InfoSets, Enhancement Package 05

- Transient Provider allows you
  - …to connect via a BEx Query in the local BI client of your SAP ERP system to a classic InfoSet and in that way provide real-time ERP data to your end-users
  - … in that way expose operational data to SAP BusinessObjects tools

- Works like an operational infoprovider or remote cube
Advantages of Transient Provider

- It runs in ERP/ECC, no separate BW system required
- Operational reporting available for specific applications
- Real time reporting
- No duplication of data
- Could use SAP pre-delivered content
Prerequisites of Transient Provider

- Install BI client inside ECC
- ECC 6.0 enhancement package 5
- Only Client Independent ("global") InfoSets flagged are available
- No remote scenarios
Limitations of Transient Providers

- No hierarchies
- No navigation attributes
- No enhancements to Transient Provider
- As characteristics and key figures are derived, you cannot apply properties to them
Pros / Cons of Transient Provider

- **Pros:**
  - Operational BI Real-time reporting, no modeling, no loading

- **Cons:**
  - No hierarchies, no display attributes, no currency translation
  - Not all InfoSets are available for use
WRAP-UP
Recommendations

- Analysis for Office is the premium offering for BEx Analyzer
- No need to migrate BEx queries, change data models
- Consider transitioning BEx Analyzer users now
  - Most features are already supported
  - Missing features are planned for future release
- Adopt new BI Platform when you can
  - Direct connection to BEx queries
- Improved usability over BEx Analyzer, plus additional features
  - Formula Mode, Analysis Ribbon has Hierarchy, Conditional Formatting, Display Panel, Pause Refresh, PowerPoint integration
- Save costs by minimal training
Tips

- Leverage the capabilities of the restricted key and calculated key figures where possible
  - As part of the underlying BI query, they will be processed by the BW back end
  - Can be shared across queries, minimizing development downstream
- Use SAP variables as part of the SAP NetWeaver BW query
- Use prototypes/demos to gather requirements
- Make use of pause/refresh button
- Free e-learning is available on the SAP Community Network
Return on Investment

- Take advantage of using Analysis Office without modeling in BW, using real-time ECC data.
- Use Analysis Office side-by-side with existing BEx tools, such as the BEx Information Broadcasting
- No training for end users; ease of use
- Less reliance on a very busy Information Technology staff to create Excel Workbooks
- Expand use of Business Intelligence to beyond IT and Analyst/Power User
- Calculations on the fly
- E-learning on the SAP Community is free
Best Practices

- Take advantage of free e-learning on Analysis office at sap.com/learnbi
- Visit Analysis Office page on SAP Community Network http://scn.sap.com/community/businessobjects-analysis-ms-office
- Check the SAP Software Distribution Center (SWDC) for downloads at least monthly
  - Service.sap.com/swdc
  - Demo of how to do that is on SAP Community Network
- Pause/Refresh Button
- It’s Excel – start using it
Key Learnings

- Consider performing a proof of concept with SAP BusinessObjects Analysis, Edition for Microsoft Office
- Lessen the load on IT by having Excel-knowledgeable users create workbooks
- Check the SWDC for downloads at least monthly
- Consider transitioning BEx Analyzer users now
  - Most features are already supported
  - Missing features are planned for future releases
- Review ECC Enhancement Pack 5 Features for Operational BI Reporting
- Improved usability over BEx Analyzer
Resources

  - www.bw-biexpertonline.com/article.cfm?id=5519
  - www.bw-biexpertonline.com/article.cfm?id=5540
More Information


Thank you for participating.

Please remember to complete and return your evaluation form following this session.

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